

**FACT SHEET: Health Care in Arkansas**  
**What the Affordable Care Act is doing for Arkansas families**

The Affordable Care Act has already covered nearly one in three uninsured Americans – more than sixteen million – and improved coverage for virtually everyone with health coverage. Americans can no longer be denied coverage because of preexisting conditions, women can't be charged more just for being women, and there are no more annual caps on the care patients receive. Hospitals, doctors and other providers are changing the way they operate to deliver better care at lower cost. Hospitals, doctors and other providers are changing the way they operate to deliver better care at lower cost. In the years to come, the ability to buy portable and affordable plans on a competitive marketplace will allow countless Americans to move, start businesses, and dream big American dreams – without worrying if an illness will bankrupt them. Here is how the Affordable Care Act is working for families in Arkansas:

**After Health Reform: Improved Access to Care**

- Gallup recently estimated that the uninsured rate in Arkansas in 2014 was 11.4 percent, down from 22.5 percent in 2013.
- Prohibits coverage denials and reduced benefits, protecting as many as 1,239,180 Arkansans who have some type of pre-existing health condition, including 168,163 children.
- Eliminates lifetime and annual limits on insurance coverage and establishes annual limits on out-of-pocket spending on essential health benefits, benefiting 865,000 people in Arkansas, including 333,000 women and 219,000 children.
- Expands Medicaid to all non-eligible adults with incomes under 133% of the federal poverty level. 274,247 more people in Arkansas have gained Medicaid or CHIP coverage since the beginning of the Health Insurance Marketplace first open enrollment period.
- Establishes a system of state and federal health insurance exchanges, or marketplaces, to make it easier for individuals and small-business employees to purchase health plans at affordable prices through which 52,784 people in Arkansas were covered in March 2015.

- Created a temporary high-risk pool program to cover uninsured people with pre-existing conditions prior to 2014 reforms which helped more than 921 people in Arkansas.
- Creates health plan disclosure requirements and simple, standardized summaries so 1,348,300 people in Arkansas can better understand coverage information and compare benefits.

### **After Health Reform: More Affordable Care**

- Creates a tax credit to help 48,100 people in Arkansas who otherwise cannot afford it purchase health coverage through health insurance marketplaces.
- Requires health insurers to provide consumers with rebates if the amount they spend on health benefits and quality of care, as opposed to advertising and marketing, is too low. Last year, 57,712 consumers in Arkansas received \$6,269,271 in rebates.
- Eliminates out-of-pocket costs for preventive services like immunizations, certain cancer screenings, contraception, reproductive counseling, obesity screening, and behavioral assessments for children. This coverage is guaranteed for more than 1,102,338 people in Arkansas including 446,936 women.
- Eliminates out-of-pocket costs for 415,430 Medicare beneficiaries in Arkansas for preventive services like cancer screenings, bone-mass measurements, annual physicals, and smoking cessation.
- Phases out the “donut hole” coverage gap for 40,505 Medicare prescription drug beneficiaries in Arkansas, who have saved an average of \$778 per beneficiary.
- Creates Accountable Care Organizations consisting of doctors and other health-care providers who share in savings from keeping patients well while improving quality, helping 106,868 Medicare beneficiaries in Arkansas.
- Phases out overpayments through the Medicare Advantage system, while requiring Medicare Advantage plans to spend at least 85 percent of Medicare revenue on patient care. Medicare Advantage enrollment has grown by 48,124 to 117,400 in Arkansas since 2009.

### **After Health Reform: Improved Quality and Accountability to You**

- Provides incentives to hospitals in Medicare to reduce hospital-acquired infections and avoidable readmissions. Creates a collaborative health-safety learning network,

the Partnership for Patients, that includes 60 hospitals in Arkansas to promote best quality practices.

**We're not done. Other legislation and executive actions are continuing to advance the cause of effective, accountable and affordable health care. This includes:**

- Incentive payments for doctors, hospitals, and other providers to adopt and use certified electronic health records (EHR). In Arkansas more than 78.2 percent of hospitals and 45.6 percent of providers have electronic health records systems.
- A new funding pool for Community Health Centers to build, expand and operate health-care facilities in underserved communities. Health Center grantees in Arkansas now serve 163,797 patients and received \$89,683,675 under the health care law to offer a broader array of primary care services, extend their hours of operations, hire more providers, and renovate or build new clinical spaces.
- Health provider training opportunities, with an emphasis on primary care, including a significant expansion of the National Health Service Corps. As of September 30, 2014, there were 123 Corps clinicians providing primary care services in Arkansas, compared to 42 clinicians in 2008.

###